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ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

VOL. XI, No. 2 NEWS FEBRUARY 1956

ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
FEB 17 1956
MEDICAL LIBRARY

IN THE OFFING

It will be recalled that the Hoover Commission Report on Federal Medical Services, submitted to the Congress almost a year ago, contained recommendations on a National Library of Medicine (see AFML NEWS, April 1955). In June and July 1955 five identical bills implementing the Hoover Commission proposal were introduced: HR 6915, by Rep. Fisher; S. 2408, by Sen. Smith (New Jersey); S. 2482, by Sen. McCarthy; HR 7344, by Rep. Church; HR 7528, by Rep. Frelinghuysen (AFML NEWS, August 1955). The House bills were referred to the Committee on House Administration and the Senate bills were referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

In Washington Report on the Medical Sciences (No. 446, 2 January 1956) there appeared a news item reporting that Senator Lister Hill, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, along with his colleague Senator John F. Kennedy, was interested in and favorably disposed toward the proposal for the creation of a National Library of Medicine. A later issue of WRMS (No. 449, 23 January) reports (in part): "A draft bill which Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee is circulating among interested organizations and individuals would make the proposed NLM a Federal independent agency... The Senate Committee has received many written comments on the bill draft, out of which undoubtedly will come a new measure to be introduced in not too distant future... "

INDEX-CATALOGUE, VOLUME XI

On 18 January 1956 the Armed Forces Medical Library received delivery of a thick (938 p.) paper-bound volume bearing the title Military Medicine, which is actually an offprint of the Military Section (pp. 289-1226) of Volume XI, Fourth Series, Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, for which the publication date has been announced from time to time over a period of some years. With this offprint in hand, the complete Volume XI cannot be far behind.

Printing cost borne by the FRIENDS of the Armed Forces Medical Library.

One views this volume with mixed emotions. There is the sheer size of the thing; one cannot recall a strictly comparable performance. There is a twinge of regret, for this is the last volume which will appear in the traditional format; there is a feeling of relief that the Library has managed to bring this complicated affair to a conclusion. Volume XI is, in fact, a grand demonstration of the many virtues and also the considerable defects of this kind of bibliographical apparatus.

In the preface to Volume XI the Library's position on discontinuance of the publication is again explained - a position which was propounded more fully in an article in Texas Reports on Biology and Medicine 8:271-300, 1950 (offprints are available on request - Ed.). The Library notes with some pride the ten volumes of the Current List and the six-volume quinquennial cumulation of the AFML Catalog, all of which have appeared since that date. The judgment of the medical community is awaited with considerable interest.

Copies of Volume XI will be distributed automatically by the Armed Forces Medical Library to those libraries and institutions which have in the past been established depositories for the series; copies are also available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, at $9 per copy. For the present, at least, copies of the offprint section Military Medicine will have a limited distribution to military installations only.

A HISTORY OF THE ARMED FORCES MEDICAL LIBRARY

It is fitting that in our concern for the present and our preparation for the future we pause occasionally to consider the past. This feeling is intensified when special anniversaries are imminent; the Armed Forces Medical Library will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding in 1961. For that occasion Dr. Dorothy M. Schullian of the Library's History of Medicine Division is engaged in writing a history of the Library and its services to medicine since its inception in 1836.

The History will be fully documented by archival material in the Library and elsewhere. Fortunately, however, the Library is still sufficiently young that records locked in memory alone will benefit the History. It is earnestly requested, therefore, that anyone in possession of material which might be helpful, whether in the form of written records or of personal reminiscences, communicate directly with Dr. Schullian at the History of Medicine Division, Armed Forces Medical Library, 11,000 Euclid Avenue at Adelbert Road, Cleveland 6, Ohio. If the great periods of John Shaw Billings, of the Index-Catalogue, of the Index Medicus, of Fielding Hudson Garrison, and of the more recent years are to be worthily treated, the generous cooperation of many friends of the Library will be needed.

FEBRUARY EXHIBIT

Some of the Library's holdings of Morgagni material are highlighted in the February exhibit. Biobibliographical data about the founder of the science of pathological anatomy, as well as pictures of him and a reproduction of the statue erected in his honor by his fellow-townsmen, are displayed. A number of Morgagni's original publications can be seen in the cases, including his first great work, Adversaria anatomica, published when he was only 24 years old, and his last and most famous work, De sedibus et causis morborum, which appeared when he was 79. Translations of some of the most famous passages of the latter, such as those on heart-block (Adams-Stokes syndrome), cerebral gummata and tuberculosis of the kidney, are shown. Morgagni's associates, such as his teacher Valsalva and his student Antonio Scarpa, are also portrayed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY

The bibliography on cancer chemotherapy, on which the Library has been working for over a year, has become a much larger project than originally planned, due to broadening of the scope to include the effects of some chemicals on normal as well as neoplastic tissue. As a result, the tentative publication date announced in the AFML NEWS for November 1955 will not be achieved; present plans are to have the manuscript in the hands of the printer by 30 June 1956.

Before this long bibliography is completed, a total of over 7,400 possible leads will have been examined by the Bibliography Section staff working with Dr. Joseph Leiter of the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Martin Rubin of the Chemo-Medical Research Institute of Georgetown University and Dr. Jeanne C. Bateman, a physician of Washington. From these the most valuable articles will be culled to make a bibliography of about 4,300 items. Actual printing will be done by the National Institutes of Health.

AWARDS TO STAFF MEMBERS

Three members of the Library's staff recently received cash awards through the Army's Incentive Awards Program for suggestions which simplified or improved current procedures in the Library. Mr. David Merrell was the recipient of awards for two suggestions which improved methods used in the composition of the Current List of Medical Literature; Mr. Edwin N.Herndon suggested a revision of the Circulation Section's charge card, and Mr. Bela Balassa recommended the use of number labels for the card trays in the various catalog card cabinets.

JANUARY TRAVELERS

The Director was in Cleveland 16-19 January to inspect the History of Medicine Division and to attend a Conference on the Practical Utilization of Recorded Knowledge sponsored by Western Reserve University.

On 27 January the Director departed for Chicago, there to attend meetings of the Board of Directors of the Medical Library Association, the 46th Annual Meeting of the Association of Research Libraries and the Midwinter Conference of the American Library Association; also to address students at the University of Chicago Graduate Library School and to confer with Mr. Ralph P. Creer and Dr. Austin Smith of the American Medical Association.

Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, Assistant Librarian for Cataloging, Miss Eleanor R. Hasting, Head of Processing Section, and Miss Estelle Brodman, Assistant Librarian for Reference Services, also were in Chicago at the end of January on various matters of MLA and ALA business.

ART SECTION DESIDERATA

The Art Section of the Armed Forces Medical Library has a collection of more than 25,000 photographs and prints of medical men, and frequent demands are made on this material. Occasionally, however, a request is received for a photograph for which the Library has been unable to find any picture source.

From time to time a partial listing of the Library's picture needs will be published in the hope that readers of the NEWS will be able to help in locating them.

Herewith is the first installment:

Auerbach, Leopold, 1828-1897
Becker, Daniel, 1594-1655; professor, Königsberg
Carson, James, 1772-1843; suggested artificial pneumothorax in tuberculosis
Dahl, Anders, 1751-1789; Swedish physician and naturalist
Fraser, William; graduated in England, 1840
Hutchinson, John, 1811-1861; English inventor of spirometer
McSweeney, Miles; Civil War doctor
Matthis, Florian, fl. 1600
Prescott, Samuel, 1751-1777; bacteriologist
Schwabe, Daniel, fl. 1600
Zacharie, Issachar, chiropodist to President Lincoln
Zinn, Johann Gottfried, 1727-1759; German anatomist

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